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in that of the Mississippi valley, has been somewhat neglected and almost entirely misunderstood by the typical business man.

As is to be expected, therefore, the author lays stress on the effects of the canal on long-existing trade routes, and on new routes already established or about to be established as a result of the canal. To bring out clearly these effects, both present and probable, Mr. Johnson has made use of maps and statistical tables to good advantage. On page 28, for example, he shows important international trade routes, both isthmian and alternative, and in so doing brings out clearly the importance of the canal as a saver of time and fuel, and ultimately of course, of freight charges.

Millions of Americans regard the canal as little more than the external evidence of a sudden burst of nationalism that desired to show the rest of the world the strength and courage of this government. Mr. Johnson's book shows, however, as it should, that the motives back of its construction were more utilitarian; and no one can read its pages and escape the conviction that the canal is the result of a conscious attempt on the part of the American government to secure for its business men a greater share of the world's trade and commerce.

The book is well printed, well illustrated, and contains a good, workable index.

Two adverse criticisms may be made of the book. First it appears to have been hastily written. In many places the diction is poor, transitions are often too sharp, and occasionally the grammar would meet disaster at the hands of a purist. Second, the footnote references are too few in number and poorly chosen. There are but sixteen such references in almost three hundred pages, and of this number seven refer to books or articles prepared by the author.

C. M. T.

Anglo-American isthmian diplomacy, 1815-1915. By Mary Wilhelmine Williams, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, Goucher college. (Washington: American historical association; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1916. 356 p. $1.50)

This admirable monograph was awarded the Justin Winsor prize by the American historical association in 1914 as the most important contribution to American history submitted by younger students during the preceding two-year period. This, in itself, is assurance of its technical excellence. The bibliography is extensive and critical, the system of reference in accordance with the best practice, and the style something more than adequate. A better map should, however, have been furnished.

The new material was found by a reëxamination of many printed sources, and exhaustive research in the public record office in London and the records of the department of state at Washington. The omission of a study of the archives of the Central American republics is unimportant, as they are not likely to contain anything of moment not to be found at Washington or London. The study of contemporary opinion is drawn chiefly from magazines, though a few newspapers are used.

The book gives somewhat more than its title promises, for the first twenty-five pages are an admirable review of events from 1655 to 1815. Including, as it does, the repeal of the differential canal dues in 1914, the period studied has the character of a completed episode; though the fact that the archives are not yet opened for the later years renders their treatment less final than the discussion of the years before 1860. The sense of unity is emphasized by the admirable resumé which forms the concluding chapter. Miss Williams closes with a glance at present, and a pious hope for the future American policy with regard to Central America; these, however interesting, are not parts of her subject.

The detailed restudy of a period of which the general outlines are well known puts the writer under the temptation to secure sensation at the expense of exaggeration and misplaced emphasis. This temptation Miss Williams has successfully resisted; she does not claim to have reversed many important preconceptions. She has her reward in the fact that the sound and fundamental character of her study gives it a general interest, quite apart from her particular topic, as a contribution to Anglo-American relations generally and to the understanding of the workings of international forces and the methods of diplomacy.

Miss Williams brings out for her period conditions similar to those which have been discovered by recent students of the period following the revolution, and the period of the Texan troubles. Great Britain, or at least the statesmen managing her foreign affairs, was keenly interested in America, rather better acquainted with local situations than were the managers of American policies, and insistent that her American interests made her at least a coequal power with the United States in the settlement of American problems. She made herself the protector of the weaker party, in this case the Marquitos, which brought to her political diplomats the support of her philanthropists. She was, on the whole, rather scrupulous as to the sanctity of treaties. Her local agents still often continued the traditions of Drake, and regarded lightly the injunctions of the home government. This latter condition was true of the United States, whose general policy, however, changed more rapidly as her strength increased. This changing policy often made treaties once entered into, afterwards inconvenient. Moreover, throughout the period the American policy was based on the premise that Great Britain could not be recognized as an equal in America. These conditions caused constant friction, and threatened war. It is clearly evident that the primary reason why war did not result was that Great Britain's desires in regard to America in general were fundamentally secondary to her desire for peace with the United States, so that she backed down, if brought to the point of war. The good faith of the United States in the observance of her treaties, even when obnoxious, was also an important factor.

The period most minutely treated, that between 1849 and 1860, gives an opportunity for studying the two schools of American diplomatic practice at work on the problem. Clayton was embued with the same nervous dread that weakened Jay in 1794, and he came out almost as badly. The democrats, whether they apprehended the situation better or because they were more expert in the national game, brought the cards to the table, as did Cleveland in 1896, and won. This is not a recommendation for the future, but a statement of what happened in these given instances. Few studies in American diplomacy have brought out so clearly the technique of the council chamber and the relation of that technique to the clash of forces without.

CARL RUSSELL FISH

The tide of immigration. By Frank Julian Warne, A.M., Ph.D., special expert on foreign-born population, United States government, thirteenth census. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1916. 388 p. $2.50 net)

In this volume the author has discussed the elementary general phases of the immigration problem, such as the sources of immigration, the economic forces causing the influx of immigrant population, the artificial and stimulated factors in inducing immigration, the geographical distribution of the immigrants, the governmental machinery for handling immigration, methods of restriction, and the effects of immigration upon the standard of living and the American wage-earner. Some of the material presented seems to have been taken from a previous work (*The immigrant invasion*) by the same author. There is little new in the work either in the way of material or method but the manner of presenting old material is nearly always fresh and suggestive.

Certain changes in organization might have added to the clearness and simplicity of the work. In discussing the tidal force and the ebb of the tide (chapters 3 and 7) it seems that this would have been a fitting point for treating the net immigration or the actual net gain in population brought about by immigration. Instead of this arrangement the net immigration is discussed in chapter 18. The former method of treatment would have given a much more accurate idea of the volume and numerical significance of immigration. The author's method leaves